

RABIES

Human rabies is an acute viral illness of the central nervous system. The disease almost always progresses to coma or death within ten days of the first symptom. Death is usually due to respiratory paralysis. Onset is often heralded by a sense of apprehension, headache, fever, malaise, and indefinite sensory changes at the site of a preceding animal bite.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation (Human):

- Detection by direct fluorescent antibody of viral antigens in a clinical specimen (preferably the brain or the nerves surrounding hair follicles in the nape of the neck), **OR**
- Isolation (in cell culture or in a laboratory animal) of rabies virus from saliva, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) or central nervous system tissue, **OR**
- Identification of a rabies-neutralizing antibody titer ≥ 5 (complete neutralization) in the serum or CSF of an unvaccinated person.

Case Classification

Confirmed: A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed.

Comment

Laboratory confirmation by all of the above methods is strongly recommended.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation (Animal):

- Detection of rabies viral antigens by direct fluorescent antibody test performed on central nervous system tissue, **OR**
- Isolation of rabies virus in cell culture or an inoculated laboratory animal

Case Classification

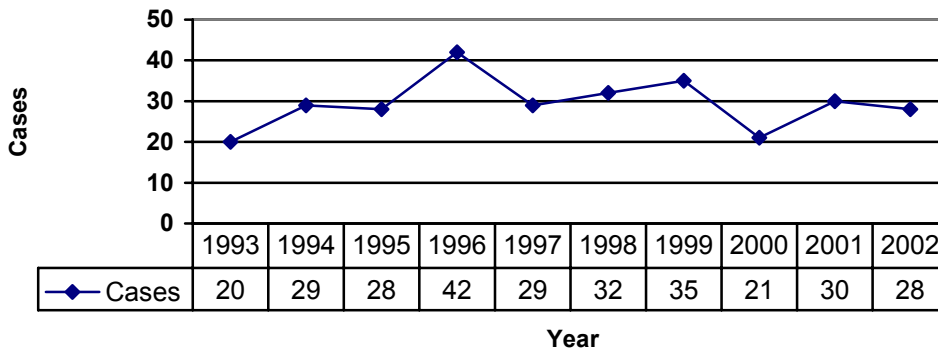
Confirmed: A case that is laboratory confirmed.

Epidemiology

Kentucky	2002
Human Cases	0
Animal Cases	28

The last human case in Kentucky was in 1996. The exposure for this South Central Kentucky woman was probably a bat bite. The investigation and report are summarized in the *MMWR*, May 9, 1997, Vol. 46/No. 18 and the *Kentucky Epidemiologic Notes and Reports*, April, 1997.

Animal Rabies Cases, Kentucky 1993-2002

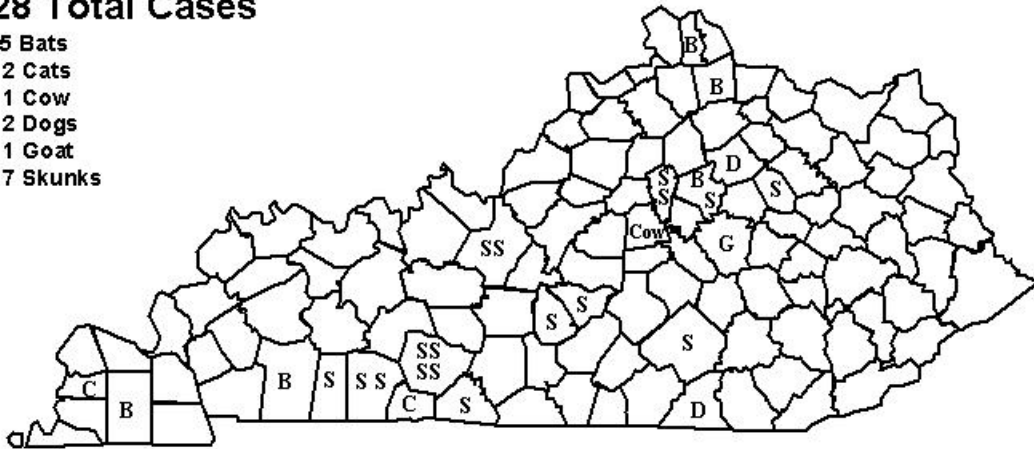


A total of 1,359 animal specimens were received for rabies testing in 2002. There were 61 samples unsuitable for testing because of decomposition or traumatic damage to the brain tissue. Six of the positive cases (21.4% of positives) were in domestic animals. There were two positive dogs, both were owned and unvaccinated. There were also two positive cats, one owned and unvaccinated and a kitten from an abandoned litter. To date the raccoon strain of rabies has not been detected in Kentucky. The rabies laboratories tested 134 raccoons in 2002 and all were negative.

Rabies Cases in Kentucky - 2002

28 Total Cases

5 Bats
2 Cats
1 Cow
2 Dogs
1 Goat
17 Skunks



Allen – 1 Skunk
Bourbon – 1 Dog
Carlisle – 1 Cat
Christian – 1 Bat
Fayette – 1 Bat, 1 Skunk
Graves – 1 Bat
Green – 1 Skunk

Hardin – 2 Skunks
Kenton – 1 Bat
Logan – 2 Skunks
Madison – 1 Goat
McCreary – 1 Dog
Mercer – 1 Cow
Montgomery – 1 Skunk

Pendleton – 1 Bat
Pulaski – 1 Skunk
Simpson – 1 Cat (Kitten)
Taylor – 1 Skunk
Todd – 1 Skunk
Warren – 4 Skunks
Woodford – 2 Skunks